



LEISHMANIASIS DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH WRAIR



The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) will provide diagnostic services to help identify leishmaniasis. These services are available to health care providers who believe that their patients may have this disease. These services are not limited to the Department of Defense or even to government health care providers. It is open to all health care providers dealing with potential cases of leishmaniasis.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT AT WRAIR ABOUT THESE SERVICES?

For cutaneous leishmaniasis, please refer to the written instructions posted on www.pdhealth.mil for biopsy/scraping and PCR specimen collection and mailing. In cases where culture is desirable, for visceral leishmaniasis, or for additional information, please contact LTC Peter Weina PhD, MD at WRAIR for instructions about specimen collection and submission. He can be reached at 301.319.9956 (telephone), 301.319.7360 (fax), or peter.weina@NA.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL (e-mail). He would prefer to be contacted through e-mail, if possible.

WHAT TESTS WILL WRAIR PROVIDE?

For suspected cutaneous leishmaniasis, WRAIR will provide touch preparation of biopsy or tissue scraping samples, tissue sections, and PCR analysis of cutaneous lesions. WRAIR will also provide culture testing where needed. Generally, a culture is not needed as almost all cases can be identified through other tests.

For visceral leishmaniasis, WRAIR will provide the same tests on bone marrow, splenic and liver aspirates and, in addition, rK39 testing of serum. In the case of rK 39 tests, WRAIR will often just need 20 microliters of serum to do the assay.

WHAT TYPES OF SPECIMENS WILL WRAIR NEED?

For cutaneous leishmaniasis, WRAIR will need four slides, one piece of tissue or tissue scraping in absolute alcohol.

For visceral leishmaniasis, WRAIR will send an entire test kit with instructions on its use to the requesting facility. The kit is then returned to WRAIR for testing.

WHERE SHOULD SPECIMENS BE SHIPPED?

Specimens should be shipped to:

Peter J. Weina, PhD, MD
Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Corps
Director, Leishmania Diagnostics Laboratory
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
503 Robert Grant Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

WHERE DOES WRAIR SEND THE TEST RESULTS?

WRAIR sends the test results back to the requesting organization or health care provider. For this reason it is important that the epidemiology form that accompanies the test samples be filled out correctly.

DOES WRAIR HAVE WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS OR FORMS?

WRAIR has written instructions for biopsy procedures and will tailor a diagnostic kit to meet individual needs.

WRAIR also has a tracking form for both cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis which must accompany all samples.